

U.S. Application No. 10/802,941
Docket No. P21-166283M/TT
(NGB.380)

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~,
wherein second stepped portions which are superposed on top of each other are
respectively formed on second abutting surfaces of the split flanges,
wherein one of the abutting surfaces, which protrudes toward the shaft portion, forms
a stepped portion in which a lower side is a projection and an upper side is a recess, and
wherein another of the abutting surfaces, where the retaining protruding piece is
formed, forms a stepped portion in which a lower side is a recess and an upper side is a
projection.
3. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein a projection is
formed on an inner side of the side leg portions at a position lower than a position where the
hinge member is connected.
4. (Previously Presented) The clip according to claim 2, wherein a projection is formed
on an inner side of the side leg portions at a position lower than a position where the hinge
member is connected.

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5. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, further comprising a tool groove formed in a cut-out portion of the head portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the head portion comprises a peripheral edge having a tapered portion that gradually increases in thickness from a center of the head portion towards the peripheral edge of the head portion.

7-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The clip according to claim 7;~~ A clip comprising:
an insertion member comprising a T-shape cross-section and having a head portion
and a shaft portion connected downwardly from the head portion;
a latch member comprising a V-shape, disposed on an outer side of the shaft portion;
a hinge member connecting the shaft portion and the latch member; and
at least one engaging groove formed in a side wall of the shaft portion,
wherein as the head portion is pressed, the shaft portion presses side leg portions of
the latch member outwardly of the latch member to expand in diameter, and retaining pawls
provided projectingly on the side leg portions of the latch member are engaged with retaining
stepped portions formed in a bulged manner on a lower portion of the shaft portion to hold a
state in which the latch member expands in diameter,
wherein a pair of split flanges, which are mated in a shape of a flange by surrounding
the shaft portion when the side leg portions are closed, are provided to be continued from
upper end portions of the side leg portions of the latch member.

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wherein one side of an abutting surface of the pair of split flanges protrudes to form an L-shape in a plan view and abuts against a corresponding side portion of the shaft portion,

wherein a retaining protruding piece, which extends from a side portion thereof opposite to a protruding portion of the split flange, is formed on the side leg portions, said retaining protruding piece comprising a pawl portion extending from an end of said retaining protruding piece, said pawl portion engaging a side portion of said shaft portion,

wherein as the retaining protruding piece is engaged with the shaft portion, the split flanges are mated to form a flange surrounding the shaft portion so as to hold the shaft portion, and

wherein said pawl portion engages a surface of said engaging groove.

12. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 [[7]], further comprising a guide projection formed on a side of the shaft adjacent the engaging groove.

13. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 [[1]], wherein an upper portion of a tip of the retaining protruding portion comprises a tapered shape.

14. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 [[1]], wherein an upper surface of the split flange comprises a lower portion and an upper portion, and

wherein a thickness of the upper portion is greater than a thickness of the lower portion of the upper surface.

15. (Previously Presented) The clip according to claim 14, wherein the upper surface of

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the split flange further comprises a gradually protruding tapered portion between the lower portion of the upper surface and the upper portion.

16. (Previously Presented) The clip according to claim 15, wherein the upper portion conforms to a recessed portion of the head portion and the tapered portion of the split flange conforms to a tapered portion of the head portion.

17. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein a gap is formed between the insertion member and the latch member, and
wherein said gap is sufficient to enable the insertion member to slide with respect to the latch member.

18. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein said shaft portion comprises a substantially rectangular shape.

19. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein said head portion comprises an arc-shaped peripheral edge portion having an inversely-tapered shape and having an upper side and a lower side, and
wherein a diameter of the upper side is larger than a diameter of the lower side.

20. (Currently Amended) The clip according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein said hinge is disposed along an inner side wall portion of said latch member.